PRESIDENT: I am afraid not.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has Mr. Karayalar applied for leave of absence?

PRESIDENT: I don't think it is necessary.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I only want to know whether he has.

PRESIDENT: He has not.

The following resolution was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member was absent:

"1. This Council recommends to the Government that an experiment in prohibition be tried by abolishing the sale of intoxicating liquors in the Shencotta taluk during the next biennial contract period".

Resolution re Change of Examination Season.

RAO BAHADUR K.V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Before the resolution is moved, may I draw your attention to the fact that there are two resolutions, one standing in the name of Mr. Raman Menon and another in the name of Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai, which are substantially identical? May I suggest that the two resolutions be taken up together?

PRESIDENT: If the members have no objection to that suggestion being given effect to.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I have no objection provided I am given the full time.

PRESIDENT: Yes, I will allow the full time.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): If the first resolution is passed or negatived the second resolution cannot be moved. Then I do not know why the particular indulgence is necessary.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the harm in that indulgence.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that prompt steps be taken to change the examination season from March to December so far as the examinations conducted by the Education Department of the State are concerned."

This resolution need not detain us long. It is well-known that in our country, the months of Kumbham and Minam form the hottest, the most dusty and uncomfortable part of the year. Whatever may be the case in other parts of the world, in our part of the world that is the fact, and that has to be recognised and reckoned with. That children of tender years and young boys and girls should be burdened with the examination toil in addition to the other sufferings of that season of the year is on the face of it a most unfeeling and disgraceful arrangement. It undermines the health and the intellectual powers of the nation at

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[Mr. G. Raman Menon,]

the very source. It leads to undeserved failures on the part of the pupils in getting promotion owing to attacks of illness due to the season and other evil effects of the season. I hope, I need not enlarge upon the evils of the present arrangement. I protested against the present arrangement when it was introduced even though I was a Government servant at the time, if my memory is correct, and I have been continuing the protest, till at last, it has come before this Council in the present form. I believe I sent in a question also about the matter in 1101, but it lapsed before it was answered, and I fear that, by some lapse in memory, I failed to renew the question, after some unfruitful petitions. The resolution too was sent up long ago and I have been renewing the same during successive sessions and it has at last turned up from the ballot box. I believe that most of the important newspapers in the land have also given expression to the public opinion against the present examination season. No educationist worth his salt will for a moment support the present inhuman arrangement.

Now, I shall proceed to examine some of the difficulties in the way of reverting to the old arrangement. That fact has to be borne in mind. We had our examinations in December. It was some years ago that the pernicious arrangement was brought into effect. So I am not pleading for a new arrangement but merely for a reversion to an old healthy arrangement. It may be said that as the Madras University's College year commences in April, our school year should also commence in the same month, and that otherwise, our boys and girls may lose about 3 or 4 months without any direct use from the point of view of the examination. Even if that is a fact, I submit that that is a far less evil than the serious deterioration in physical, mental and moral health now caused to them by the present arrangement. It seems to me that the loss of time referred to is not very serious.

The loss can possibly affect only the school final students who go up after the examination, for the College course. The Madras University now conducts their examinations, I believe, in April and October. If our English School Final students appear for the examination in December, their results will be out by the month of March. In May or June they can join the College. So, the so called loss will be only about 3 months. If we are particular we can avoid this and gain a month or two. There is no harm in holding the examination in September or October, since that period of the year is also cool in our part of the world, owing to the rains. The Madras University now conducts its examinations twice annually, viz., in April and October. We can arrange to present the bulk of our students for the October University examinations. In this way, we can avoid the loss of the few months referred to and, by arrangement with the University, we can gain a few months for one batch of our students at least. As a matter of fact, we know that these details do not really present any practical difficulty. We once changed our examination season from December to March, surely not in the interests of the physical mental and

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moral health of our girls and boys. Let us now reverse the process in the interests of our girls and boys. At most we will have only to suffer a similar loss of time and some inconvenience. But the present loss or inconvenience is worth suffering, because our girls and boys will gain in physical, mental and moral health by the change suggested. That is not a small matter.

I request the Government to accept the spirit of the Resolution. There is no special sanctity in December. If on consultation with the University authorities, it is found that it is more advantageous to hold the examination in September or October that month may be fixed upon. The only essential thing is that a cooler and healthier part of the year should be fixed upon as the Examination season which is the time when the students have to put forth the maximum exertion. There is no difficulty at all as regards the Examinations other than the School Final Examination. So, in the case of the other Examinations the Government can make the necessary change at once, without having to consult with anybody. As regards the English School Final Examination the change required should be made as early as possible in consultation with the Madras University authorities.

In this connection, I beg to point out that we need not attach too much importance to University Examinations either of the Madras University or of any other. The real point is that we should educate our young people properly. If the products of our schools and colleges are really good and efficient, certificates of educational qualification issued by the Government or our college authorities will in a few years command as much respect and recognition as the certificates of any University. We can even train our young people in technical subjects such as Medicine, Engineering etc., if we allow the experts in these subjects in our country to train a few people for the professions in a practical way and give them the necessary lead for theoretical studies for the examinations to be held in these subjects. This is only a suggestion by the way. It is not at all necessary to adopt this suggestion for giving effect to the resolution under discussion. I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House and the Government.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): സർ, അടുത്തതായി ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട പ്രമേയവും ഇതും ഒന്നുതന്നെയാകയാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻമേനവന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ഹാർട്ടായി അനുകൂലിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ പരീക്ഷാകാലം വൃശ്ചികമാസമായിരുന്നു. ഈ ക്രമം ഏറിയ കാലമായിട്ടു നടന്നുകൊണ്ടുവരികയായിരുന്നു. അതിൽ പിന്നീടു പരീക്ഷാകാലം മാഘ്യ കുംഭം മാസത്തിലേക്കു മാറി. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഉഷ്ണാധിക്യമുള്ള ഒരു മാസമാണ് മാഘ്യമാസം. ഈ മാസത്തിൽ പകൽ സമയത്തുള്ള ചൂടും രാത്രികാലത്തുള്ള ഉഷ്ണവുംകൊണ്ടു പ്രായംകുടിയവരുടെ തലച്ചോറിനെപ്പോലും ക്ലേശപ്പെടുത്തുന്നുണ്ടു. വി

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[Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.]

ദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ കഥ പിന്നെ ചോദിക്കാനുണ്ടോ? പകലും രാത്രിയും മുഷിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു പഠിച്ച ഈ പരീക്ഷാകാലങ്ങളിൽ അതിലേക്കു തയ്യാറാകേണ്ട വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ആരോഗ്യസ്ഥിതി ഏറ്റവും പരിതാപകരമാണ്. പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളായ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ശരീരസ്ഥിതി എത്ര കഷ്ടമായ നിലയിലാണെന്നു എനിക്കു നല്ലവണ്ണം അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. സാധാരണ തെങ്ങിന് കാറു എന്നൊരു രോഗം ബാധിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഏറ്റവുംപ്രയോജനകരമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ ഉൽകൃഷ്ട ഫലത്തിന് ഒരു കളങ്കംനേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ലാൻറ റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ നിത്തൽചെയ്തു റവന്യൂ സൂപ്പർവൈസർമാരെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നൊരു അഭിപ്രായം വന്നപ്പോൾ ബി. എ. ക്കാരെ വേണമോ വേണ്ടയോ എന്നൊരു ആലോചനയുണ്ടായി. ആ അവസരത്തിൽ ബി. എ. ക്കാരു വെയിലത്തു നടക്കുന്നതിനും കുന്നും കുഴിയും കയറി ഇറങ്ങുന്നതിനും അപ്രാപ്തരായതുകൊണ്ടു റവന്യൂ സൂപ്പർവൈസർമാരായിട്ടു ഗ്രാഡുവെറിനെ നിയമിക്കുന്ന നയം നല്ലതല്ലെന്നു തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തി. അവരുടെ ശരീരസ്ഥിതി അത്ര ശോചനീയമായ നിലയിലാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എത്ര പരീക്ഷാവിജയികൾക്കാണ് തലവേദന, പച്ച മലയാളത്തിൽ കിറുക്ക് എന്നു പറയുന്ന ചെറുതരം ഭ്രാന്ത് മുതലായവ പിടിപെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഫ ഠ കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പു ഒരു തഹശീൽദാർ വയ്ക്കം ക്ഷേത്രത്തിന്റെ ശ്രീകോവിലിനകത്തു കയറി ശിവലിംഗത്തെ ആലിംഗനം ചെയ്തതായി എനിക്കു അറിയാം. (ചിരി) ഒരു പ്രൈവറ്റു സിക്രട്ടറി ഭ്രാന്തുപിടിച്ചു മരിച്ചു എന്നും എനിക്കറിയാം. അഞ്ചു കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പു ഒരു സെഷ്യൻജഡ്ജി ക്കു ഭ്രാന്തുപിടിച്ചു കെട്ടിയിട്ടിരുന്നതായും എനിക്കറിയാം. ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിനു മുൻപ് ഒരു മജിസ്ട്രേട്ട് ഭ്രാന്തു് നിമിത്തം മൂന്നു മാസത്തെ അവധി എടുത്ത വിവരവും എനിക്കറിയാം.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): ഇപ്പോൾ ഉയരുന്നവരെ ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ കിടക്കുന്നവരെല്ലാം ബി. എ ക്കാരാണോ?

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): അല്ല. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സിദ്ധിച്ചവരുടെ തലച്ചോറിനു ഭ്രാന്ത് പിടിപെടുന്നതു വലിയകഷ്ടമാണ്.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): ഉയരുന്നവരയിൽ ഗ്രാഡുവേറ്റ് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി അറിയാമോ?

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): എനിക്ക് അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. അങ്ങിനെ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതും ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപ്പെടേണ്ട ഒരു കാര്യമാണ്.

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വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ തലക്കുമീതെ ചുമത്തിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ കാഠിന്യവും ഉഷ്ണകാലത്തു നടത്തുന്ന പരീക്ഷയുമാണ് ഇതിനൊക്കെ കാരണം. ഫസ്റ്റ്-ലെ E. S. L. C. പരീക്ഷക്ക് ഫീസ് അടച്ചിരുന്നവരിൽ 1/5 പേർ പരീക്ഷയ്ക്കു ഹാജരാകാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ വന്നിരുന്നു. അതുകൊല്ലത്തെ വർണാകുലർ സ്കൂൾലീവിംഗ് പരീക്ഷക്കു 1/10 പേർ പരീക്ഷക്കു ഹാജർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല എന്നു കാണുന്നു. ഫസ്റ്റ് ഫോറം-ൽ നടത്തിയ സ്കൂൾലീവിംഗ് പരീക്ഷയിൽ 1/8 പേർ പരീക്ഷക്കു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. ഫസ്റ്റ് ഫോറം-ൽ ഇ. എസ്. എൽ. സി. പരീക്ഷക്കു 1/5 പേർ ഹാജരുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. ഓരോകൊല്ലവും പരീക്ഷക്കു ഫീസു് അടച്ച വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ പരീക്ഷ ഹാളിൽ ചെന്നു പകുതി എഴുതി സുഖക്കേടായി തിരിച്ചുപോകയും ചെയ്തതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഇതിനുള്ള കാരണമെന്താണെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറാകട്ടെ ഡയറക്ടരാകട്ടെ അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. പരീക്ഷാ ഹാളിൽതന്നെസുഖക്കേടായിട്ടു കുട്ടികൾ നിലംപതിച്ച സംഗതികളും എനിക്കു ബോധ്യംവന്ന സംഗതിയാണു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ചെങ്ങന്നൂർ സ്കൂളിൽതന്നെ മൂന്നുവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ സുഖക്കേടുനിമിത്തം പരീക്ഷാഹാളിൽനിന്നും വെളിയിൽപോകേണ്ടിവന്നു.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): വൃശ്ചികമാസത്തിൽ പരീക്ഷ നടത്തിവന്നിരുന്ന കാലത്തു് ഇങ്ങിനെഒന്നും സംഭവിച്ചിരുന്നില്ലെ?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I rise to a point of order. My friend is talking in Vernacular.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): വൃശ്ചികമാസത്തിൽ പരീക്ഷനടത്തിയകാലത്തു് ഞാൻ സ്കൂളിൽപഠിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയായിരുന്നു. അന്നു് ഈ മാതിരി അനിഷ്ടസംഭവങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടില്ലാ.

പരീക്ഷക്കു ഹാജരാകാതെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള താഴ്ന്ന ക്ലാസിലെ കുട്ടികളുടെകണക്കു അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേഷൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൊണ്ടു് കാണുന്നുമില്ലാ. ഇതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു പരീക്ഷാസമയം മാറിവച്ചാൽ മാത്രമെ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ യൂനിവേർസിറ്റിയിൽ നിന്നും പരീക്ഷാകാലം മാറാൻ ഉള്ള ആലോചന ഇടക്കാലത്തു് നടത്തികൊണ്ടിരുന്നതായി ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞു. അതു് സാധിച്ചും ഇല്ലാ. കാരണം പരീക്ഷാകാലം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടു് വിശ്രമാർത്ഥം വേനൽക്കാലത്തു് നീലഗിരിമുതലായസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പോയി താമസിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സായ്പന്മാരുടെ സ്വാർത്ഥതല്പരതയാണു്. അവക്കു് വിശ്രമാർത്ഥം നീലഗിരിമുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പോകണമെങ്കിൽ അതി

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[Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.]

നമുന്നു അവരുടെ ജോലികൾ എല്ലാം തീർത്തുവയ്ക്കണം. നമുക്ക് അതിനെ തുടരാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാ. നാം നമ്മുടെ കുട്ടികളെസ്നേഹിക്കണം. അതു കൊണ്ടുനമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും നടത്തുന്നപരീക്ഷ ധനു മാസത്തിൽ നടത്തുന്നതിന്നാം ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്യണം. എന്നാൽ, യൂനിവേർസിറ്റി പരീക്ഷാകാലം മാറാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് കാളേജിൽ ചേരാനുള്ളകാലം അല്പം അകലെ ആയിപ്പോയി എന്നൊരു ആക്ഷേപം പുറപ്പെട്ടുവിച്ചേക്കാം.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether if the examination season is changed the students will be able to attend the congress?

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ പരീക്ഷകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പരീക്ഷാഫലം പുറത്തു വരുന്നതിനു 2 മാസംവേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. ഡിസംബർമാസത്തിൽ പരീക്ഷകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഫെബ്രുവരിമാസത്തിൽ ഫലം പുറത്തുവരും. പിന്നീട്ട 2 മാസത്തേയ്ക്കു കൂടി കൂട്ടികൾ സ്വസ്ഥമായിട്ടിരിക്കണം. ഈ അവധികാലം മുഴുവനും അവരുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തെ നന്നാക്കുന്നതിനും പുറമെ ഏതു കാളേജിലാണ് ചേരേണ്ടത്, ഏതു മാർഗ്ഗത്തിൽ ഉള്ള പഠിതം ആണ് തുടരേണ്ടത്, എന്നു തീരുമാനിച്ചു അതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുകൂടി രക്ഷകർത്താക്കൾക്കു സാധിക്കും. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെകൌൺസിലിൽ പാസ്സാക്കി കിട്ടണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): ഈ പരീക്ഷാസമയം ഡിസംബർ മാസത്തിൽ ആക്കുന്നതിനെക്കാൾ ജനുവരിമാസത്തിൽ ആക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു തരക്കേടുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: Please speak in English, Mr. Thomas.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): പരീക്ഷാമാസം ജനുവരിമാസത്തിൽ ആക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടും തരക്കേടില്ലാ.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Sir, Mr. Raman Menon prefaced his remarks, in putting forward his resolution, by saying that we need not be detained unduly in the disposal of this resolution. From what I shall say presently it will be seen that the justification for an elaborate discussion of this question will not arise in this Council now and for some time to come. In the course of his vehement plea for the prompt change of examination season from March and April to December, Mr. Raman Menon was good enough to suggest that any teacher who stood against this change would not be a teacher worth his salt. I am afraid that a considerable body of teachers, who also wish to be regarded as men of the

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world, would have to come within this category of teachers not worth their salt if the test Mr. Raman Menon wants to apply is to be applied.

Sir, Mr. Raman Menon has made a plea that the Government should approach this question in a sympathetic spirit. I presume there can be no doubt of my personal sympathetic attitude towards this question, because on some grounds indentical with those which have been urged by Mr. Raman Menon and Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai, and on some other grounds also, I have had to move this proposition twice in the Madras Senate for the purpose of changing the date of the examinations from March and April to December. And on both the occasions, I failed to convince the Senate. A considerable volume of support was obtained in the Senate, but I remember vividly that, on the very first occasion in which I brought forward this proposition and when it was almost within sight of victory, the whole aspect of the case was changed by a vigorous speech made by the late Sir V. C. Desikachari. He reversed Mr. Raman Menon's arguments and pointed out that of all the seasons in the year the December-January season was undoubtedly the unhealthiest from the stand point of students. He gave a vivid picture of students with cold in the head and streaming noses and eyes coming forward to the examination and being obliged to answer their papers; and the Senate was carried off its legs by his speech and adhered to the system of examination which it had accepted about 20 years ago. That was the position when the question was brought up before the Madras Senate. Meanwhile every other University in India has come into line with the Madras University, and at present, so far as India is concerned, the academic year begins in June or July and ends in March.

I may mention that, in the course of the arguments of both Mr. Raman Menon and Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai, there has been an assumption that, if we accept this change so far as our own schools are concerned—March and April to December—the period of waiting that the students will have to undergo before they join the Colleges affiliated to the University of Madras or other Universities, will only extend to a period of three months. I must frankly confess my inability to follow this argument. Ordinarily, between the examination and the publication of results, the University allows a period of 6 weeks.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*). What was the special reason for the member to take the same proposition for consideration again if the late Mr. V. C. Desikachariar undermined the arguments put forward on behalf of the proposition?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMY AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): If Mr. Sivatanu Pillai will follow the excellent rule of waiting till a man has developed his argument he would not insist on putting the question at all. I have promised to differentiate between Mr. Raman Menon's position and my position. Mr. Raman Menon was himself hinting a possible difference between his position in regard to Travancore and in regard to other places "when he said, whatever might be the climatic amenities elsewhere so far as this State is concerned we must arrive at a certain solution". His position is, I may say, that climatic

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amenities in other parts of the Madras Presidency where there are colleges affiliated to the University of Madras, are different in the months of March and December from what they are in Travancore. I think that is one of those matters in which a definite rule cannot be given. I will come to the point presently if Mr. Sivatanu Pillai and others have *some* patience, and then there will not be the possibility of ignoring his position. I am not inconsistent in taking up the present attitude of pointing out that the propositions of Mr. Raman Menon and Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai are at present outside the scheme of practical politics so far as our State is concerned, and my position is that the University should move and bring about a change in the matter of the date of examinations. I make mention of this matter just to show that consistently with the attitude I have taken, and consistently also with a possible chance of teachers being as much interested in the health and wellbeing of the students and of their doing well in examinations as others, it cannot be expected that we, who are actually engaged in teaching students, are less interested in the settlement of this question on proper lines than any members of this House. But, as I said, the question has to be approached not merely from the stand-point of dry theory but from the stand-point of practical politics. We have to recognise that, in regard to the School Leaving Certificate Examination, it is bound up with the University Examination. In one sense it is at the termination of the school career, and in another sense it imports the commencement of another career, *viz.*, the College career. While some years ago a person who passed that examination would not go in for a College career or would not attempt to join a College, now in Travancore and elsewhere we find that the percentage of those who discontinue their studies after the School Final Examination is practically negligible. Consequently we have to assume that as far as the destination of most of the persons who pass that examination is concerned it is immediately to enter on a College course. Consequently, unless the Madras University is prepared to change its academic year and the date of the examinations, we should be put to the necessity of obliging students to go through a period of waiting which is clearly considerable. I pointed out some minutes ago that Messrs. Raman Menon and Kallur Narayana Pillai have both assumed that this period of waiting will not extend beyond three months, and Mr. Raman Menon said that he for one is prepared to make the sacrifice if the health and wellbeing of the students could be secured. I quite agree that no sacrifice is too great if we could secure better health and wellbeing of the students; but are you going to secure the better health and well being of the students by this period of waiting? To begin with, when examinations are held sometime in the middle of December the results are published towards the end of January. That used to be the case when in old days persons of my standing used to appear for University examinations. I think before 1905 the examinations were held in December and January. In those days a period of 5 to 6 weeks used to be allowed for the valuation of the papers and the moderation of marks and the publication of results,

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which generally takes place 5 or 6 weeks after the examinations were over. Consequently, if the examination takes place somewhere about the middle of December the results should be available before the 1st of February. On the other hand it has been suggested that if the Madras University is not going to change its academic year still we may change and avail ourselves of the September course. All that the University wants is six continuous terms one after another having 3 terms for one year. There would be no difficulty in Travancore Colleges electing to have September courses beginning in September and ending in September, and that would seem a practical solution if it could be shown that there was the same availability for all examinations of Madras as there is for some examination. I do not know whether Mr. Raman Menon is aware that the September examination is not available for all subjects and for all courses. It is not available for Honurs courses now. It is not available for professional courses like Engineering, Medicine and other things. Colleges which are affiliated for these professional subjects begin their academic year just as the Arts and the Science Colleges. Consequently a person seeking to join them misses his admission in one of the professional Colleges at the time they are opened. He will have to wait till they open again in a succeeding year. Consequently, the person whose result is published about the first of February will have to wait, quite possibly, till the 1st of July of the year following that in which he passes, that is, for a period of somewhere about 8 months before he can get admission. And it is well known with regard to admission in Colleges including professional Colleges that the Principals of the Colleges who have control over the admission look with a certain amount of disfavour upon students who have taken long vacations between the completion of one course and the starting of another course. They want to have students fresh from the schools and they do not want them to have the opportunity of forgetting what they have been taught in the schools before they come and enter upon a new and a heavier and a higher course. That is one of the great difficulties in this matter. I therefore say that even if it is possible to have a September course in Travancore, you can have it only for Intermediate and B. A. and not for any other examination.

Again, I ask you to consider other points also. At the present moment various other examinations conducted by the Government of India and other bodies, to which we should naturally aspire that our students should also have admission, are being held in harmony with the assumption that the University examinations are being held in March and April and such selection examinations are held after the University Examination, for example, the I. C. S. and the F. C. S. Examinations, and the Examination for Forest and other Imperial services. All these are being held about six months or so after the results are available. And if we change our examination to December and these students are allowed to appear for the September Examination the results will be published in December. That is to say the students in Travancore Colleges who pass their B. A. examination in September will know the results about the Christmas

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time, when they will not be in a position to apply for any of these competitive examinations. I ask the members to seriously consider whether they are willing to allow all these competitors, who will be debarred after certain age, from an opportunity to appear for these highly coveted tests and appointments in the British Indian Service, by taking up this question of postponement. I ask the House particularly to apply their mind wisely to this question, because from the assertion made by Messrs. Raman Menon and Kallur Narayana Pillai it may be assumed that the sacrifice to be made is small. But it may be argued that it will apply only to exceptional candidates and not the ordinary run of people. It may be said that the ordinary B. A.s whose ambition is to get a third class are not going to be selected for this examination, and that as they form the bulk of the student population "why should we legislate for the exceptional student?" Whatever the legislation you may make, it must be equally good for the exceptional as well as for the ordinary students. If you take up the I. C. S. pass list, you will find that an ordinary B. A. has got into it as well as the Honours man. In passing I may mention that the Honours course will not be available for a person taking up the September examination. That is one thing I should like you to remember. I may also mention that examinations in other Universities are held in consonance with the Madras University Examinations. But, you may ask, assuming that we are prepared to make the sacrifice what is the extent of the sacrifice? In the first year it will be more than one year. You will have a person who passes in the March examination having to wait for the commencement of the next years' course.

The first term in the College will have to be a long term. If you begin the College somewhere about the 15th of December, you cannot close the College for about three weeks in March. You will have to go on, as we used to go on in the old days when the examinations were held in December, to the classes till the middle of April and sometimes till the commencement of May itself. I ask you whether it is more deleterious to the students to be asked to study in the month of May and towards the end of April than it is to ask them to study for these final examinations conducted by the Madras University in other parts of the year. I say that you are in a dilemma. The hottest parts of the year for the whole of the Madras Presidency, including to some extent even Travancore, are not in the month of March but they are found to be later in the year. As I know from experience the value of these airy assumptions with regard to the temperature of the country, I took the trouble to look up the temperature for the different months in various places. In Trivandrum the temperature on the first of December is 84° on the 15th of December it is 84° and on the first of March it is 82°. That is to say, the atmosphere in December is cooler by 2° than it is on the first of March. On the fifteenth of March the temperature has gone up to 87° and it begins to be hot again and on the first of April it is 87°.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know the year to which these figures relate?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, Arts College*): I have taken the average of a number of years. There may be some variations in a particular year due to unseasonal rains and other things. I have taken the figures for the same years in regard to other places also. The temperature on the fifteenth of April is 88° while on the first of May it is 84° and on the first of July it is 81°. So, it can be seen that the coolest part of the year is the first of July. I do not want to give a geography lesson as to why it is cooler in July than in December, as was assumed to be by the mover. In the Madras Presidency the position of Mr. G. Raman Menon may be perfectly correct. In Anantapur the temperature was 87°, in Madras it was 85°, in Trichinopoly it was 91° and in Madura it was 89° on the first of December. The same was the case roughly with the temperature in these places on the fifteenth of December. On the first March it was 89° in Madras, 94° in Trichinopoly and 92° in Madura. On the fifteenth of March it was 90° in Madras, 97½° in Trichinopoly and 95½° in Madura. On the first of April it was 91° in Madras, 101° in Trichinopoly and 100½° in Madura ; and on the fifteenth of April it was 93° in Madras, 102° in Trichinopoly and 101° in Madura. On the first of May it was 94° in Madras, 94° in Trichinopoly and 87° in Madura ; and on the first of July it was 96° in Madras, 96° in Trichinopoly and 94° in Madura. I give these figures just to show that the assumption of Mr. G. Raman Menon that the hottest parts of the year as far as Travancore is concerned are the months of Kumbhom and Minam is not corroborated by temperature statistics.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : May I know from the member whether the temperature charts were consulted when the examination season was fixed?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): No.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*) : May I know what the temperature is in the months of December and January?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*) : I thought I just gave the figures for December and other months ; but I have not taken the figures for January. It will be somwhere between the figures I have given.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know which are the hottest months in Travancore?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*) : I am coming to that presently.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*) : May I know from the member how long a student passing the School Final Examination has to wait before he can join the College now?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*) : He is granted admission generally fifteen days after the results are published.

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MR K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Does not the present School Final student sit for the examination in March? Is he not admitted to the College in the month of July?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): He is admitted in the month of June. In Travancore many Colleges open in the month of June.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): So, if the examination is conducted in the month of December, how long will he have to wait till the month of June?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): He will ordinarily have to wait for five or five and a half months.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know from the member whether he has not, even now, to wait for three months at least?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Yes, but these are vacation months.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): How many months does he lose thereby?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Sir, I am being cross-examined on a matter on which I can well afford to stand any amount of cross-examinations but for the time limit.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I do not want to cross-examine the member, but I simply want to get information from him.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): We have to consider that our students have to run neck to neck in a race with students who are not going to have the benefit of the change. Consequently, a difference of six months in starting a College career means a great deal in competitions for employment and admission to the All India services and selections to the All India examinations.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from the member the figures showing the average temperature for March and the average temperature for December?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): I have given them.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The figures related to particular dates only and not to the whole month.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Roughly the figures will be the same for the whole month. As a matter of fact, I may say that the thermometer in my room has practically shown no variation throughout the whole month and I used to observe the thermometer daily before I went out. The fact is that people do not recognise that, as far as Travancore is concerned, we enjoy an exceptional climate. The variation between night and

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day temperature seldom is below 7°. The temperature never comes below 72° though once it was 70° and above 90°. But in the Madras Presidency the variations in some places are as much as 40° in the seasons in which there are no variations here, and consequently there are stations in which the temperature can go to 110° or above, such as Guntur, Madras, Anantapur, Trichinopoly, Tinnevelly and other places. I find that there are also stations there in which the temperature can remain very low and it has gone down there to 59°. Taking the averages of the temperature in all the places, even when I moved this proposition in the Madras Senate, I admitted that, so far as Travancore is concerned, it would not matter as to when the examination took place and I pleaded, not on behalf of Travancore, but on behalf of the wider area in the Madras Presidency.

I may say, Sir, that there is one other reason why I moved the proposition in the Senate. It was on the suggestion made by Dr. Paranjpye who is a member now of the Council of India. He pointed out that in regard to certain competitions held in England those who passed as in the olden days in the December examinations would be able to compete and, it was perhaps with the idea of preventing that, that the period of examinations was changed to April. I do not now remember the details. But he convinced me at the time and for that reason I pressed my question. Whatever it be, the decision of the question is not in our hands. All our English school courses hang upon the Madras University course and other University courses and till they are prepared to change their courses and their academic year we cannot do anything. You may ask, "what about the Vernacular examinations". That again cannot be changed because the students are constantly migrating from the English to the Vernacular schools and from the Vernacular to the English schools. Consequently we cannot alter that also. Again, as I pointed out, if you are going to have an academic year from January to December, you have to do a part of your work in the hottest part of the year, during the whole of April and in May, and the class examinations will be held in the month of May.

Lastly, I may point out that the September courses are themselves under reconsideration. There is a very large volume of opinion against them, and there is a probability that they also may be given up altogether on the ground that they have not been satisfactory. On these grounds, I will ask the House to remember that there is no object in passing this resolution and we cannot now attempt to make any changes consistently with its spirit. Personally also, I may say that there is no warrant for the assumption that more students fall ill at this time of the year than at other times. I do not find that the month of December is so healthy as is supposed to be. I receive more leave applications now than at any other period of the year. The member is quite welcome to come and study the leave applications at his leisure.

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PRESIDENT: I think your time is up.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): I want only a minute more.

PRESIDENT: You had already six minutes over time.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): I am inclined to think that Mr. Raman Menon is exaggerating the advantages to be derived by a change of the date of examination to December. He has not, nor has Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai, supplied us with any statistics as to the incidence of disease and ill-health before the change and after the change took place. A few stray cases, here and there, of insanity or head-ache which have come to the personal knowledge of the speakers do not necessarily mean that that was the state of things under the new conditions, nor does it mean that similar instances could not have been brought together for the period before the change took place. The argument advanced by Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar seems to be almost conclusive against the proposed change. We have to adopt our course along the course of the Madras University and so long as our examinations and our professional College are bound up with Madras there are very great disadvantages if we change the course from March and April to December.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the member what was the period of examinations there when he himself was a student?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): December.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Has the member any objection to change the season for the classes other than the School Final and give a longer period to the School Final students?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Arguments may be advanced for both sides, but my own impression is that the advantages to be gained by the change are imaginary. But all the supposed benefits of a change are not worth while when set side by side with the undoubted disadvantages. Therefore, I am against the proposal of Mr. Raman Menon and Mr. Narayana Pillai.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): It is really a kaleidoscopic nature of humanity that the gentleman, who was upholding the change in favour of December in the Madras Senate, should now come here and oppose the resolution brought forward to the same effect. The main reasons that he urged, so far as I have been able to follow him, were that the students appearing for the examination in the months of December and January will have to keep themselves waiting for a long period of six months, and in so doing he criticised Mr. Raman Menon and Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai and said that he could not understand how they arrived at a period of three months. But I frankly admit that I was not able to follow how the same member arrived at a period of six months. I should say that the mathematics in regard to this is only very simple, because the examination, as is proposed by the resolution, ought

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to be held in the month of December instead of being held in April. The interval between them is three months and, therefore the extra period is only a period of three months. The student can well afford to wait for this additional period of three months also as he has already put in seven years in the High School and four or five years in the Vernacular School. It is only after eleven years of study that the student is asked to wait for a period of three months. This I suppose will be a sort of relief both to the student as well as his parent. The parent will have to consider what line of course his son should take in the College and also probably he has to provide for money. He has to recoup the health of the boy. For so doing some interval will be found quite welcome for the parent as well as the student. Therefore, it is not, I believe, a very great loss that migh be deplored of. Probably the excess period of three months in the case of an extraordinary student may be something to be deplored of, but we are taking the case of the average students, and in so doing I believe, that it will be a very great relief to them.

The gentleman has been at some pains to show the temperature in the months of March, April and May. He conceded that they are not the hottest parts of the year. But the proposition before the table is only to conduct the examinations at a period when the temperature is much less than the temperature that we have in the months of March, Apiril and May. I believe the temperature in December or January will be much less and therefore we should have only a comparative idea of these two periods. In that way I think that December is quite agreeable and it has been a period that has been chosen before the Education Code was started.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry. South*): May I know from the member whether he would advocate, holding the classes in the nights?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I have heard that such a thing takes place somewhere in China. I do not know whether that sort of system should be introduced in our country.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): May I ask Mr. Sivarama Panikkar whether he is aware that the temperature at Trivandrum on the first of March is lower than the temperature on the fifteenth of December?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): In that case I should say that it would have been a particular instance. What we have been feeling outside is quite different. That certainly has to be admitted. The months of February, March and April are the hottest parts of the year when students feel extremely difficult to study; especially in the examination seasons, it is a very hard thing for us teachers to see that, because they could not sit comfortably inside the rooms, they are forced to sit outside and, if I may be permitted to say, they appear even without their shirts, almost naked. It is really a distressing sight, and if only the Principal and the honourable member had thought about the difficulty which his

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[Mr. K. Sivarama Panikkar.]

own students probably feel during the night time to read in the Hostels attached to the College he would certainly have agreed to the idea of having the examinations conducted in the month of December. Probably that might have been one of the reasons why he was persuaded to bring in such a proposition in the Senate and I do not know why he did not insist on the proposition being passed there. If the member is particular about it, I am sure that such a proposition can be passed in the Madras Senate as well, so that a consistency might be brought in the date of examinations in Madras and Travancore. In the light of these remarks, I believe I should support the resolution brought forward by Mr. Raman Menon and seconded by Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I am against the proposals contained in the resolutions of Mr. Raman Menon and of Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai, for the simple reason that the period of rest now given to our students studying in the various schools is so placed that they are expected to take rest during the hottest part of the year. From experience I think that April and May are generally supposed to be the hottest parts of a year and the mid-summer vacation time is the period when the students are expected to take rest. The vacation itself is called the mid-summer vacation. Naturally we expect our students to have then a clear head free from all studies.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know from the member whether he is aware that the resolution does not oppose the idea of giving the mid-summer vacation?

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): It will be clear to the member presently if he hears my arguments patiently. According to the present arrangement the examinations will be over before the commencement of the mid-summer vacation. That is the hottest part of the year and the students are expected to begin their studies only at the fag end of the vacation or at the commencement of the cold season. So, the vacations are so arranged that our students are expected to have a clear head free from the worries of an intensive study for examination. After taking rest during the hottest part of the year during which the students are expected to have complete relief they again begin at the close of the hottest part of the year. Such an arrangement is, I think, best suited for our students and for that simple reason I am of opinion that the present arrangement is the best and that no change is necessary.

As for the change of the examinations to December, I think the month of December is generally the coldest, unhealthiest part of a year, especially in Travancore. Cholera, smallpox and other diseases begin in the month of December. Whatever may be the case in the other parts of Travancore, in South Travancore, cholera generally begins in December and that is the case every year.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Is it not the case with Shencotta also?

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MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastiswaram*) : Yes. Then again it is the season when Influenza is prevalent. For these reasons and also for the simple reason that during these months when the diseases prevail the students should have only easy work to do. I am against the proposal for changing the period of examination to December. So Sir, I am against the proposals contained in the resolution.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I am so sorry, Sir, that I cannot see eye to eye with my esteemed friend Mr. Raman Menon and no less esteemed friend Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai. Anxious as I am to be helpful by passing this resolution to the school-going population, I honestly feel that there would not be much use in passing such a resolution. I am prepared to accede to the proposition that the month of December is not healthy. I do not discuss about the merits or about the temperature. But I concede for the sake of argument that it is so. But then, does the resolution help in making it healthier? Can we delete the month of December from the calendar? Probably we may be able to delete it from the calendar of the State. But can we delete it from the higher calendar of Nature? We cannot. So, we have got to live through the whole of the year and through all the months. Then the only consideration is even if we take it for granted that it is unhealthy how does it affect the schoolgoing population? The assumption that we seemed to hear from the members who spoke in support of the resolution was that the maximum effort has got to be put forth by the students for the sake of the examination in that month. In other words, we are called upon to approve, if not to bless, the idea that the students must unnecessarily strain themselves for the sake of the examination and a certain amount of concentrative strain is necessary for passing through the examination. Sir, that point of view I am not prepared to concede. I am certainly at one with any member who will suggest that the examinations must be abandoned altogether. But, on the other hand, the proposition that examinations must remain as they are now and that examinations must be necessarily a strain upon the intelligence and efforts of the students is a very wrong proposition to concede and I would call upon the members not to pass a premium on that evil state of affairs.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is it due to the natural fact that the students are put to much strain during the time of the examination?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : It is due not to the time of the examination but it is due to the nature of the examination. The nature of the examination must be changed and the students must be so prepared that they must be ready to be examined at any time. Otherwise, the education is not worth the salt. Education is education only if you are ready at any time you are called upon to respond. The examination that needs an extraordinary strain to be put upon us is a very unnatural examination and that examination I do condemn.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know from the member whether he has any objection to the change proposed so long as there are examinations?

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MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I feel that the resolution passed to-day is not for to-day only. It applies for to-morrow also and I am here to advocate not merely a paliative to the present evil but for a radical reform in the existing evil, and, viewing as such, I think it would be very detrimental to the State if we allow such a kind of examination and such a kind of education to go on. Examination is not to be a test. It is something of an exhibition of the general equipment that a student has gained by the course of training that he has had in a college or a school. Taking that view, Sir, I am not at all prepared to concede the point of view that is adumbrated in the resolution of my friend, Mr. Raman Menon.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the member why he should object to December being the period of examination if his idea is only that there should not be any strain in connection with any examination?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): My objection is this—I do not discriminate between December and March for the sake of the examination. Any month is as good as any other for the purpose.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is not March better than December?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): All months have to be taken together and we have no reason to complain about a particular month. I do not wish to convert this Council into a class room to teach my ignorant brethren elementary things.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Sherlallai*): May I know whether after a hard day's work, the member would prefer to work in the night also?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): There may be so many points on which I can stand cross-examination. But I do not think that time will allow it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does the member claim notice?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not want to approve of a kind of examination which requires a considerable strain on the part of the student. Such a kind of examination must be modified. Taking that view I do not think we could adopt this as a paliative *viz.*, the change of the date of the examination from March to December. It has been pointed out relevantly and pertinently by the learned member on the other side that each student loses about 5 to 6 months in the year. If we take into consideration the number of students who appear for the examination each year, we can know the magnitude of the loss to the whole nation.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is there anything like loss and gain in the ideal state of things?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): When you take into consideration that 2 or 3 thousand students lose about 5 or 6 months each in the

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year, the loss would be about 1000 years. I think that is a very short-sighted view to take about the question. I feel it is not proper to get ourselves off from the Madras University because the Madras University, the South Indian Railway and the Indian National Congress are the only three institutions which link us with the other parts of India. Therefore, Sir, I am not prepared to countenance for a moment the point of view advanced by my friend, however anxious, I may be, to do so.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I quite realise, and sympathise with, the difficulties experienced by the school-going children with regard to the examination season. I agree with Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar that we are not at present in a position to get ourselves free from the course adopted in other parts of the Madras Presidency and therefore until we are able to persuade the Senate of the Madras University about the change of the date of the examination and also about the period of the academic year I think that we should not make any change in our date of examination. We must be satisfied with the present arrangement until other Universities—

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is it the opinion of the member that the present period of examination does not bring in additional strain upon the students.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I realise the difficulties. But considering the difficulties on the other side, we are not in a position to make any change.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is it his opinion that the effect of the proposed resolution does not bring our schools into conformity with those in the Madras Presidency?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): The difficulty is about the loss of time of which much has been said and also about the loss sustained by a few of the best of our students on account of their inability to appear for certain higher competitive examinations.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is it the member's opinion that a rest for three months after 11 years of continued labour and hard work is very long?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I do not say that it is long. But as a matter of fact it will be more than 3 months.

Another point, as has been pointed out by Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar, is that, if we have our examinations in December and re-open the schools in February or March we may be obliged to work during the worst part of the year. Any addition gained during the time of the examination is counter-balanced by the disadvantages that the pupils suffer from because they have to study in the school during a very unhealthy part of the year.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): If for some reason or other the Madras Presidency proposes to hold the examinations in the month of December, will the member agree to our changing the period of the examination,

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MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): There would be some difficulty yet. But I think it might be counter-balanced if the period of the academic year is changed.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether a hypothetical question can be asked? I would not have felt called upon to speak on this resolution but for two reasons. The first is that as I was closely listening to the speech of the learned member on the other side, Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar, I was at the outset pleased to hear from him that he was one of the staunch advocates on more than one occasion for the change of the examination season from March to December. The first reason that he advanced for reversing the position was that he was convinced by the able and successful arguments advanced by the late Mr. Desikachari. The House will remember that as soon as he gave expression to this idea I interrupted him and asked him whether there was any particular reason for his moving the same proposition a second time in the Senate.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): As a point of personal explanation, I may state that I do not recollect having said that I *was convinced* by the arguments advanced by Sir V. C. Desikachari. The Senate was carried off its legs by his arguments.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): At any rate the distinguished member was not convinced of the soundness of the arguments, if the Senate by a majority reversed his opinion. As I understood the position, the individual opinion of the member was, that he was for a change. That is what I was led to believe from the statements made in this House.

Was there any particular reason apart from the reasons advanced by the member by way of giving the views advanced by Mr. Desikachari? If I remember correctly the considerations of time-limit the period that has got to lapse between December and July and other considerations of giving facilities for students to compete for the competitive examinations—these are the reasons that would have been advanced by the late Mr. Desikachari at the time when the proposal was before the Senate.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): At the time when the question was before the Senate, other Senates had not moved.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If these are the reasons that persuaded the member to change his opinion with regard to this question, I must confess I am unable to concur with him.

The second reason is that Mr. A. K. Pillai seemed to me to be labouring under a misapprehension with regard to the resolution itself. It reminds me of a practical instance. When cholera, plague and other devastating diseases confront the people, Mr. A. K. Pillai would rather like to investigate the nature of the disease, the circumstances under which it flourishes etc., without paying sufficient attention to what drug

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should be administered to the persons suffering from the disease. As a practical man I would immediately run up and get the necessary drugs to see that these diseases are not allowed to prevail any longer. Mr. A. K. Pillai evidently misunderstands the real import of the resolution. The resolution as it stands wants to give facilities for the students to sit for the examination at a less uncomfortable season, the examination season being the time when the students have to devote their best energies to get their coveted certificates.

Mr. A. K. Pillai said that examinations should be done away with. I am also one with him in this opinion but now there is no way out of it. Students have got to sit for them. If we once conceive that December and January are really less uncomfortable parts of the year than March or April then it behoves every one of us to see that the students are given the opportunity to sit for the examination in a less uncomfortable part of the year with the least trouble both to their mind and their physique. My inclination therefore is that if it is possible to change the examination season at least for the High School students, the fifth Form students may be allowed to sit for the examination during the time of December or January and students in the Sixth Form may be given a longer period in the High School career so that they may be better equipped.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Will the teachers be prepared to teach the boys for eighteen months?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The teachers are also interested in the students. This is in the interests of the student population as well as to the progress of the State and the teachers, I think, will be only too glad to work for one more year. With the amendment that the students who are studying in classes other than the School Final may be examined during the time of December or January, I would support the resolution. If the temperature at the time is not such a thing as to be desired, I will ask the distinguished member to find out a time which will be less uncomfortable for the students.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): May I ask the member how he proposes to get over the difficulty of the students of the Vernacular School seeking admission in English Schools and whether he proposes two different school years, one for the Vernacular Schools and the other for the English Schools?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): No, my suggestion does not attempt to do anything of the kind. Students studying in classes till the Fifth Form may be examined in November or December.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Am I to understand that the member's ingenious idea is to have two school years for the two kinds of schools?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Apart from the ingenuity or otherwise of my proposition, I say that a longer period must be allowed to the students in a certain class so that they may be better equipped.

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MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I appeal to the members of this House, especially the non-official members, to consider the question as a very important one. For my part, I am, as Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar pointed out, for considering the question from the point of view of practical politics. If I am not mistaken, Mr. A. K. Pillai was for considering it from an idealistic point of view. I may point out that the ideal has no significance whatever without reference to the actual existing circumstances in any case. I am tempted to speak more upon it but considerations of time prevent me from doing so. I shall confine myself to a practical consideration of the question.

It is our connection with the Madras University that is dragged in as the chief objection to the change proposed. Let us consider it from the point of view of practical politics. Practical politics ought to be based upon the greatest happiness of the greatest number of persons affected. This question of examination from the first class up to the School final class in English and the School Leaving class in Malayalam affects about 7 lakhs of pupils. University examination affects only some hundreds every year; and the Covenanted service and Provincial service affect but units. What is practical politics here, I appeal to the members of this House. Are we to undermine the health of nearly the whole generation for allowing six months of time or seniority to a few units or a few hundreds. That is the question that has to be considered. I am quite convinced that the existence of a good number of healthy workers is far more important to the nation at large and the world at large than the existence of a few I. C. S. or Provincial Service men or Covenanted Service men who simply live upon the productive work of others.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Would the member then advocate the abolition of examinations altogether.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am not going to be dragged into such questions now. I am only concerned with the question of practical politics. There we have to consider the number of persons affected and the nature of the interests involved. I am of opinion that the health of large numbers of students should be the prime consideration and not the convenience for fulfilling the ambition of a few individuals who can be counted on one's fingers' ends.

The argument of practical politics is wholly in my favour. Then I shall shortly deal with the facts about temperature which Mr. Aiyangar was quoting. Therein I am on even stronger grounds. When on the question of practical politics I was able to meet Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar in his arguments on scientific questions I am even on much stronger ground. The figures quoted by Mr. Aiyangar are for particular dates. By my questions I suggested that averages would have been of far greater utility. If my friend Dr. Madhavan Pillai had spoken upon the subject he would have been able to assure us that it is not the

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particular variations that affect the health but a small variation in temperature continued during a number of days. This will affect health much more than a certain difference in temperature for a few days. In Madras and in the mofussil towns of the Madras Presidency there may be great variations of temperature. The people there are accustomed to that. Our students here are accustomed only to the changes here. We have been accustomed to take rest during the very hottest part of the year We also find the necessity for this, from the actual statistics in the State about health. In Kumbham and Minam there is a great rise of temperature. Smallpox and other diseases also exist in our country at that time. It is not the case in December, when contagious diseases are rare. From all these considerations it is quite clear that we should make an honest attempt to relieve our girls and boys from this burden and trouble.

The resolution, it is contended, will have no practical utility. It is not so. It will relieve the students of a great deal of the causes of illhealth which they are now suffering from.

It may be urged from the idealistic point of view that the students should always be prepared for examinations and that no special examination is necessary. But all this is mere theory. That is not what Government and the examiners require. As Mr. Parameswaran Pillai suggested all examinations may be abolished. But so long as these examinations continue they must be conducted if possible in parts of the year in which the students can work coolly and collectedly without exposing themselves to causes of deterioration in health.

I am glad to note that Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar has conceded that even though our students may lose some months as regards some examinations, in other examinations they may gain a little. To make our boys and girls work during hot nights, to make them keep awake with difficulty throughout a great part of the night burning kerosine lamps which may not have proper chimneys—these are the conditions of our every day life—to make them work for a number of days together before the examinations during the hottest part of the year is to make them unhealthy. It is a fact known from practical experience—and Mr Rangaswami Aiyangar's figures also show the same—that in December the temperature is lower than in March. On the 1st of December it varies between 84 and 72, on the 15th between 84 and 74·2, the 1st of March 82 and 74, the 15th 87·7 and 78·7.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*) : May I ask what the figures were that he quoted for March ?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Between 84 and 72°.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*), No. It should be 82·4 and 72.

MR. P K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know with what kind of thermometer the measurement has been made. (*Laughter.*)

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MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I think the variation is certainly greater during March than in December and the higher temperature is also in March.

Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar further admitted that it is cooler in December. It is not merely the temperature that counts but also the feeling induced in the human frame by the variations. Our medical men will be able to assure us that even a small increase in temperature continued for a long period will affect the health. All the other considerations are trifling by the side of the main consideration about the health of the rising generation. So I press the resolution.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): Sir, I am sorry that Mr. Raman Menon even after the explanation that I gave of the practical difficulties in the way of giving effect to this resolution if it was accepted here, should seek to press the resolution to a division. I trust that the House will not stultify itself by accepting this resolution.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I ask the member whether the acceptance of the resolution in this Council will not strengthen his argument in the Senate when he again moves this question there.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): I believe that there has been some misapprehension about the position that I have taken here and in the Senate. I will make it quite clear to this House that there is no inconsistancy between my attitude today and the attitude when I moved for a change in the examination season in the interests of the students in various parts of the Madras Presidency and those who are studying in the Colleges here.

At the time when I moved the resolution in the Senate changes had not taken place in all Universities bringing them into line with the Madras University. Changes had also not been made in the dates of the various Government of India examinations bringing them in a line with the Madras University. Subsequently the dates of the Government of India examinations and both the commencement and the end of the academic years in the various Universities of India had been brought in line with the Madras University. Therefore, at present we are up against a far more formidable difficulty than formerly. As far as the Madras University bodies are concerned, especially in regard to those who come from those parts of the Madras Presidency where there is great variation in the climate between one part of the year and another-far greater variation than in Travancore-there would be much more readiness to accept the change than formerly. But, unfortunately, in regard to this date of the examinations, the Madras University authorities do not stand alone. They find themselves in the same difficulty in relation with the rest of India as we find ourselves in relation to the Madras University. Consequently, we cannot make any movement which is likely to affect the Madras University and the rest of India. However much we may try to improve matters we are only a very small

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unit in the large country which we call India and nothing that we do here is likely to affect vitally the rest of India or is likely to take place anywhere else in India. (Mr. A. K. Pillai : *Hear, hear*). That is the first and the most important practical difficulty involved in the question which I tried to urge before this House when I made my first speech. At the present moment, even if the Madras University bodies pass a resolution and effect this change in the date of the examinations that would not be of any more avail than the Travancore Legislative Council passing this resolution. It is not going to affect other Universities and the arrangements made by the Government of India for their competitive examinations. The point which I think this House will do well to recognise is that the grievances or inconveniences suffered by the Travancore students in this matter are more imaginary than real. I have very much more sympathy with the students of Anantapur, Guntur, Madras, Trichinopoly, Madura, Tinnevelly and other places in the Madras Presidency where there are far greater variations in the climate between the one part of the year and another than in our country.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Since we find such great variations in the climate only in the Andhra districts which are under the Andhra University, would it not be better if we affiliate our Colleges with the Andhra University and have this suitable change effected ?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): In the commencement and the end of their academic year, in the dates of their examinations and in almost all matters, the Andhra University is in a line with the Madras University. They do not have even their own question papers for all examinations. The Madras University supplies them with question papers and the Andhra University simply appoints some additional Assistant Examiners to value the answer papers. There is no difference now between the Madras University and the Andhra University in regard to the dates of the commencement and the end of the academic terms and the dates of the examinations.

I do not mean to say that we shall have no relief whatever by the change. Perhaps there may be some relief in some places. But my point is that we are up against a blind wall in this matter. Throughout India all the Universities and even the Government of India examinations are in a line with the Madras University. We are therefore helpless. We can as well give up education altogether in the interest of the health of our children, since at present the examinations involve a heavy strain on their part. But by a resolution of this House we cannot do anything. We cannot change suitably the academic year or the dates of the examinations anywhere else in India. Elsewhere, while speaking on this matter on a former occasion, I have been questioned in regard to the reasons for the change. I cannot now enter into those. Very many reasons have been suggested and very many reasons have been suspected. Whatever that be, at present, all Universites in India are having the same academic term and approximately the same dates

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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

for their examinations. Therefore, any change that has to take place in regard to this matter must take place with the consent of all the Universities in India and not of a single University. At any rate *we* cannot, by a *resolution* bring about any change however desirable it might be.

My next point is about the temperature in the so-called hottest months of the year and in the so-called cold months namely December and January. After I gave you the figures, one of my clerks has prepared for me a temperature chart for the whole year and I shall be delighted if Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai and Mr. Raman Menon will come and see it. Nevertheless what I wish to urge on this occasion is that temperature is not the essential question in this matter. There is a great deal of force in what Mr. A. K. Pillai said, namely that we ought not to consider examinations as involving any exceptional strain on the part of the students. Besides the final examination at the end of each academic year, the student has also to prepare for several other examinations throughout the year, and for all these examinations he has to prepare with the same amount of zeal with which he prepares for the final examination. It cannot be said that they would study less zealously for the selection examination than for the final examination. Examinations are distributed throughout the year and instruction is also given throughout the year. There is therefore the strain on the part of the student throughout the year.

Then again, as was pointed out by Mr. C. P. Thomas, such prolongation of the first academic term in each year to the months of April and May, as would be necessitated by the change proposed by the resolution, will be a positive calamity to the student, April and May being the hottest months of the year according to the resolution. Further, instead of having three academic terms, as we have at present, we shall be obliged to have only two academic terms. We shall be starting somewhere about the third week of January and be going on till the third or the fourth week of April, or probably the first week of May, to finish the first term; and then make a start somewhere about the first week of July and go on till about the first week of December for the second term. There won't be a break anywhere between. Therefore the strain on the student will be far greater than now. I may in this connection assure the House that I am now speaking not from the official point of view. I am speaking as a person who has received instruction under the old system and who has been giving instruction to students under the old system as well as under the present system. I also have children who are being trained up in our schools and colleges. The question that we are now considering is not a matter of less concern to me than it is to other persons. I must definitely contradict the suggestion that the health of our students has deteriorated on account of this change of the date of the examination from December to April. I have been a teacher during the last 29 years and I have been closely observing the health of our children.

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I have not found any general variation in the health of the present generation of students. I cannot say that the old generation of students consisted of robust men and that the present generation of students shows a deterioration in health. Notwithstanding the ideal date of examination which obtained at the time when Mr. Raman Menon was a student, he cannot himself be regarded as a very robust specimen of the products of the old system. There is no use in generalising from individual examples. Students' health does not lend itself to this kind of vague generalisation. Personally, I do not find any variation in the health of the students as a result of the spasmodic change in the climate in one part of the year from the climate in another. Epidemics like cholera and small-pox do not generally affect our students except probably influenza which prevails practically throughout the year. During the last many years I am not aware of any student having died of cholera or small-pox. These epidemics do not generally affect the students.

Personally, I would not mind the proposed change. But my point is that you have several practical difficulties to get over while making this change. You cannot make the Government of India change the dates of their competitive examinations. Therefore, if you make this change you will have to sacrifice one generation of bright students—or possibly more than one generation—and it will be a very heavy sacrifice for our State as well as for the students concerned. It is easy to make vicarious sacrifices. *We* are not going to appear for the Government of India examinations. So it is easy for *us* to say that it is the general health of the bulk of students that is more important than the chances of a few students succeeding in the I. C. S. or other Government of India competitive examinations. It is the students that are going to have the chances. Are we justified in taking away from them such opportunities which are really very rare? These are examinations in regard to which there are several conditions that have been imposed. There are limitations of minimum age and maximum age and several other things. Are we justified under these circumstances in making the present change which will have the disasterous consequence of depriving several of our brilliant young men from the rare opportunity of competing for the I. C. S. or the F. C. S. examination?

Another point that I want to place before the House is in regard to the suggestion for a change, as between the Vernacular and the English section of schools, of the date of examination. The question of amalgamation of the Vernacular and the English schools may arise at any time. It has been constantly agitated for and it may have to be taken up some day or other for the financial or the administrative considerations involved in it. Are you going to have two sets of educational officers and entirely different dates for examinations and academic terms, and thereby create something like a chaotic condition in our educational institutions? All these are practical difficulties apart from the merits or demerits of the proposition by itself, and apart from the possibility or otherwise of the question as to whether the passing of the resolution here is likely to affect the state of affairs elsewhere in India,

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[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rengaswami Ayangar.]

Even conceding these points for the sake of argument we have to realise that we are up against grave practical difficulties which are well nigh insuperable and that no vote of this House will have any effect. May I therefore ask the House to realise whether, in the light of the fact that the vote of this House will have no effect in effecting suitable and necessary changes in the Madras University and in the rest of India with which we are inextricably connected, the Government will be justified in accepting this resolution even if it is passed?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is that relevant to the discussion, Sir, my friend pointing out that the Government is not likely to accept the resolution if it is passed?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): May I point out, Sir, that I referred to that point only by way of reply to the same suggestion that was made on the other side of the House? In fact the only idea that the House has is that once a resolution is passed they expect Government to take action on it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What I object to is the general remark from my friend that there is a general complaint in this House that resolutions passed by this Council are not attended to by Government and that, if the House is going to pass this resolution, the attitude of Government would be the same as in the case of other resolutions which have not been given effect to by Government.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar meant it as a suggestion. He referred to it simply to meet the criticism made by somebody else.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar made a too general and sweeping remark with regard to the resolutions passed by this House. That I think is quite irrelevant to the discussion.

PRESIDENT: That is irrelevant to the subject matter of the discussion;but it was strictly relevant to another irrelevant remark made by another member

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What the learned member on the other side meant was—at any rate that is what *we here* gathered from his words—that if the resolution was carried it would be difficult for the Government to carry it out. It would be putting the Government in a very akward position.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, College of Arts*): That is my point. It would not be fair either to the House or to the Government if this resolution is passed.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know whether it was not a suggestion from the member that even if the resolution is carried Government are not going to accept it.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Principal, oCllege of Arts*): No.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): What does he say with regard to.....

PRESIDENT: The member has resumed his seat.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): If the Government will agree to consider the question.....

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Mr. Raman Menon's reply is over, Sir, and he is now speaking for the third time.

PRESIDENT: He is merely stating whether he is pressing the resolution or not.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): If the Government would agree to consider the question of changing the date of examinations to a healthier part of the year I shall not press the motion.

PRESIDENT: I am not aware that any such undertaking has been given.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Then I press the resolution.

The resolution was then put to the vote of the House and declared lost, 12 voting for, and 26 against.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I request that a poll may be taken.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows:

AYES—12.

1.	Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai	7.	Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai
2.	Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai	8.	Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai
3.	Mr. T. Kumara Pillai	9.	Mr. M. N. Pillai
4.	Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai	10.	Mr. G. Raman Menon
5.	Mr. G. Narayana Pillai	11.	Mr. K. Sivarama Panikkar
6.	Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai	12.	Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai

NOES—26.

1.	Mr. I. C. Chacko	13.	Mr. A. Vipan
2.	Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai	14.	Mr. Paul Daniel
3.	Mr. K. George	15.	Mr. A. J. John
4.	Mr. P. Gomatinayakom Pillai	16.	Mr. K. I. Joseph
5.	Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai	17.	Mr. C. Kerala Varma Koil Tampuran
6.	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	18.	Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman
7.	Mr. N. Nilakanta Pillai	19.	Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman
8.	Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai	20.	Mr. L. A. Lampard
9.	Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose	21.	Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai
10.	Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar	22.	Mr. R. Padmanabhan
11.	Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar	23.	Mr. A. K. Pillai
12.	Mr. S. C. H. Robinson	24.	Mr. V. Subba Aiyar
		25.	Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai
		26.	Mr. C. P. Thomas

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NEUTRALS—4.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai.
„ Kurandippallil R. Raman Pillai.
„ C. P. Tarakan, and
„ C. Tuppan Namputiripad.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-47 P. M. and met again a 2-32 P. M.

Cultivation of Tobacco in the State.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, beg to move the following resolution:

"This Council recommends to the Government that the embargo on the cultivatio of tobacco in the State be removed and that its cultivation be encouraged."

It may be thought that as there are various other cultivations i Travancore it is not very material that the cultivation of tobacco shoul be encouraged.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) May I know from the member whether there are any lands in Travar core suitable for the cultivation of tobacco?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Ye

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) Where please?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wi deal with that afterwards. I know that many parts of Travancore a suitable for the cultivation of tobacco.

The people of Travancore are now losing about 50 lakhs of Rupe every year because of the prohibition of the cultivation of tobacco in th State. The present economic condition is such that this is a very harm ful drain on the country. Of this amount, the Government gets onl about 20 lakhs of Rupees. The merchants' profits and the money pai to the producers and the middlemen outside will at least amount to 2 or 30 lakhs. So it comes to about 50 lakhs on the whole. The Goverı ment can permit and encourage the cultivation of tobacco in the Sta without foregoing the revenue of the Government from this sourc They need permit this cultivation of tobacco only under a license, and proper revenue to Government can be realised as an Excise duty on th commercial product by methods similar to those employed in the case salt or cardamoms.

Even if the proposed change results in a decrease of revenue th Government can very well afford to bear it. We have a balance about Rs. 40 lakhs now and the income from tobacco is only Rs. 20 lakhs. Even if there is a decrease in revenue under this head it is n likely to be a considerable one. It will take some time before th people will be satisfied with indigenous tobacco. For some years come import of tobacco will continue, but with the encouragement the cultivation of the plant here the quantity imported may gradual

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